Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2001 TO OCTOBER 12, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
United States Unemployment Rate	September			The U.S. unemployment rate held steady in September at 4.9%, unchanged from August. This is up 1.0 percentage points from September 2000 when the rate was 3.9%. Total employment increased by 788,000 to 135.2 million. Total unemployed also increased slightly to 7.0 million, reflecting an increase in the labour force. The September employment figures don't reflect the full impact of the terrorist attacks of September 11, and further impacts are expected in the October employment figures.
(%)	4.9%	0.0%	1.0%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	September			Total housing starts in Canada fell in September by 7.6% to 156,600 units, while urban housing starts fell by 8.8% to 134,100 units. Six provinces posted increases in housing starts, with the largest percentage increases in Prince Edward Island (100%), Saskatchewan (81.8%), and British Columbia (18.9%). The largest decreases were shown by Nova Scotia (-35.7%), Ontario (-19.3%), and Manitoba (-11.8%). Alberta's housing starts increased 7.6% in September to 25,400, up 7.2% from September 2000 and up 9.3% year to date.
Alberta	25,400	7.6%	7.2%	
Canada	134,100	-8.8%	-1.0%	
New Housing Price Index	August			New house prices in August were up 2.9% over August of last year, with the largest increases in Ottawa-Hull (11.0%), Montreal (4.8%), and Saskatoon (3.3%). Calgary and Edmonton showed steady but moderate growth at 2.7% and 1.5% respectively. Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.8%) and Windsor (-0.1%) experienced declines in new house prices, while Charlottetown (0.1%) posted a marginal increase.
Canada	106.5	0.2%	2.9%	
Edmonton	114.5	0.3%	1.5%	
Calgary	136.0	0.1%	2.7%	
(1992=100)				